

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 027226

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ORIGIN EA-09

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DRAFTED BY EA/ANP:CASQUIRE:MAGMICHAUD:RLW

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY WELLINGTON

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 027226

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PFOR, MPOL, NZ

SUBJECT: MESSAGE TO PRIME MINISTER MULDOON

REF: WELLINGTON 0343

1. SUGGESTION THAT OUTSPOKEN SUPPORT FOR US POSITION BY PRIME MINISTER MULDOON ON NPW VISITS, SOUTH PACIFIC NUCLEAR WEAPONS FREE ZONE, AND DIEGO GARCIA MERITS RESPONSIVE MESSAGE OF APPRECIATION FROM PRESIDENT OR SECRETARY OF STATE HAS BEEN CONSIDERED HERE.

2. WE SEE REAL RISK THAT NEW NATIONAL GOVERNMENT, PARTICULARLY MULDOON HIMSELF, COULD BE POLITICALLY EMBARRASSED BY TOO CLOSE AMERICAN EMBRACE, PARTICULARLY COMING SO EARLY IN HIS TENURE. WE ARE CONCERNED THAT ANY LEAK OF HIGH LEVEL MESSAGES FROM US TO MULDOON WOULD BE COUNTER-PRODUCTIVE.

3. DEPARTMENT ALSO OF VIEW THAT WE SHOULD WAIT FOR GONZ TO IMPLEMENT INTERNAL ARRANGEMENTS FOR NPW VISITS. LEAK WOULD RAISE IMMEDIATE CRITICISM FROM LEFT WING AND OTHER NZ GROUPS WHICH WOULD MAKE IT HARDER FOR GONZ TO
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PAGE 02 STATE 027226

AGREE TO PARTICULAR NPW VISITS; BOTH GONZ AND US WOULD

PREFER LEAST POSSIBLE PUBLICITY ATTENDANT TO FIRST NPW

VISIT TO NZ PORTS IN SEVERAL YEARS.

4. ON BALANCE, THEREFORE, WE DO NOT BELIEVE MESSAGE
WOULD BE WISE AT THIS TIME. YOU MAY, AT YOUR DISCRETION,
PERSONALLY EXPRESS TO MULDOON OUR APPRECIATION FOR
PUBLIC POSITIONS HE HAS TAKEN.

5. FORTHCOMING VISITS TO NEW ZEALAND BY SENIOR USG
OFFICIALS (VICE PRESIDENT AND ASSISTANT SECRETARY HABIB)
WILL OFFER ADDITIONAL OPPORTUNITIES FOR PRIVATE AND
POSSIBLY PUBLIC STATEMENTS.

6. ON OTHER MATTER STATED YOUR TELEGRAM, WE ARE ACTIVELY
PURSUING INVITATION BUT HAVE NO IDEA WHEN WE WILL BE ABLE
TO PROVIDE YOU WITH ANSWER. INGERSOLL

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